The Assembly met again on Monday the 24th October at 8 A. M. After the Dewan and the officers of the State, had taken their seats,

Mr. Kavalam Neelacanda Pillai, Landholder, (Quilon Division), and ex-member of the Legislative Council, rôse and said that as he was prevented by illness from being present at the meeting of the Assembly on Saturday, he took this opportunity of expressing his thanks for the institution of the Assembly, which he said would mark a new epoch in the history of Travancore. He repudiated the idea that the institution of the Assembly was not liked by the people. On the contrary, in the country and the villages it was hailed with universal rejoicing. Referring to racial differences reported to be prevalent in the country, he said that the state of feeling was much exaggerated. It was true that there were some differences. But these were confined to Trivandrum and to place-hunters, and as far as the people were concerned the relations between the different sections could not be more satisfactory than they were in the moffussil. He then urged the following matters for the favourable consideration of the Government:—(1) The want of sufficient roads, canals and bridges in the two Northern Divisions of the State. He asked for the deputation of a special officer for enquiring into this matter. (2) The necessity for the abolition of the present system of collecting a portion of the land-tax in kind. The practice, he said, led to innumerable hardships. (3) The reconsideration of the order of Government prohibiting the reclamations of the Vembanaud lake for purposes of paddy cultivation. The policy of the Government was, he remarked, till recently to encourage such reclamations and ryots were thus led to invest large sums of money on such reclamations. He had himself with others, reclaimed over 10,000 acres. The reason given for prohibiting the reclamation was that the Cochin Harbour might be silted up. He did not think that the reason was a sound one. He said that Government as well as the ryots would be losers if the prohibition were not removed.

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Mr. Alummoottil Sankaran Kochukunju Channar, Elava Landholder, (Quilon Division), was the next speaker. He also urged the abolition of the payment of tax in kind. He said that one who had to measure 11,000 paras of paddy for tax, often found to his cost that even 15,000 paras were not sufficient to meet the demands of the subordinate revenue servants. He further prayed that all the public schools and the Ayurvedic Medical School and the Sanscrit College at the capital may be thrown open to the Elavas and that State patronage in the matter of appointments may be extended to them. He suggested that local industries should be encouraged by the Sircar.

Mr. Madhavan Tampi of the Trivandrum Municipality supported the previous speakers as to the urgent necessity that existed for the abolition of taxation in kind. He pointed out the difficulty of taking the paddy to the Sirkar granaries, the trouble of guarding it till the Tandakaran was pleased to take charge of the same and the vexatious demands of the Tandakaran, as reasons for praying for immediate redress. He suggested that a commutation rate of 1½ fs. per para of paddy might be fixed by the Government. He said that Government would not be a loser by the transaction as they could save the rent paid for granaries and the discount allowed for deterioration of paddy. He also asked for greater attention being paid to the requirements of the agricultural classes.

Mr. Kamukara Marthandan Narayana Kurup, Landholder of Kalkulam, (Southern Division), also urged the abolition of taxation in kind. He asked further that the tax on Mango and Punna trees in Kalkulam might be abolished, as they had been in Vilavankod. He spoke strongly in favour of the study of Sanskrit being made compulsory in all schools.

Mr. Krishnan Mathavan, Elava Landholder of Mavelikara (Quilon Division), pointed out some of the grievances of the Elava community. He said that as Government had recently excluded the Elava community from the list of the backward classes, they had a claim to be admitted into all Government schools. The Elavas were denied admission to almost all the Government Girls' Schools. They were not admitted into the Ayurvedic Padasala and the Sanscrit College. He asked for redress in this matter. He further asked that State patronage in the matter of appointments might be extended to them.

Mr. E. Ramier of Shencottah, (Quilon Division) said that in case Government decided to abolish the payment of tax in kind, a uniform commutation rate of 1½ fanams per para of paddy might be fixed. He said that neither the Government nor the ryots would be losers by such commutation.

Mr. Samy Iyengar of Trivandrum, while supporting the abolition of taxation in kind, said that the commutation rate could be satisfactorily fixed only after a careful enquiry had been conducted by a commission specially appointed for that purpose. He further suggested that an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition should be held in connection with the Assembly. He urged the necessity for forming co-operative credit societies to assist the agricultural classes. He advocated the importance of giving agricultural education in schools, and the advisability of improving the breed of cattle. He asked for the formation of an Agricultural Department under the Government. He also pointed out that greater care should be exercised in apportioning the amount allotted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. Kanaru Mathevan Marayakutty, Landholder of Agastiswaram, (Southern Division), also spoke in favour of the abolition of taxation in kind. He requested further that the Tovala Channel might be completed without delay, that the allotment for Maramath works in connection with tank irrigation might be enhanced, that Agricultural Schools should be opened and that Tamil should be taught in all the Vernacular Schools of the Southern Division.

Mr. Trivikamar Vasudevar, Janmi Landholder of Vilavankod, (Southern Division), asked for the better management of Hindu Pagodas. He also spoke on the need for the opening of an English High School and the establishment of a Hospital in his taluk.

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Mr. Kanaku Tanumalaya Perumal Manikavasakam, Landholder of Tovala, (Southern Division), supported the previous speakers as to the necessity for the better management of the Devasoms, the opening of the Tovala Channel and the abolition of taxation in kind.

Mr. Parayil Aviroh Varkey Tarakan, Romo-Syrian Landholder, Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester, Grand Commander of the Order of St. Gregory and Knight of the Order of St. Peter, of Shertallay, (Kottayam Division), also spoke in favour of the abolition of the payment of tax in kind. He referred specially to the payment of a portion of the tax in the shape of cocoanut-oil in his taluk. He urged that greater attention should be paid to the necessities of the Shertallay taluk which, though one of the richest and most populous in Travancore had been, he said, sadly neglected. He asked for the opening of roads and canals and for the establishment of well conducted English and Vernacular Schools in his taluk.

Mr. Vadakumkoor Chithiranal Thampuran of Vaikam, (Kottayam Division), advocated the necessity for opening more roads and canals in his taluk. He also suggested the raising of the Vaikam English School to the High School standard.

Mr. Kandan Ikannan, Elava Landholder of Parur, (Kottayam Division), supported the previous speakers as to the necessity for abolishing taxation in kind. He also asked that the Elavas might be admitted into all the Public Schools and that State patronage in the matter of appointments might be extended to them also. He further said that the assessment rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ fanams per cocoanut tree in certain Proverthies of Parur was excessive and asked for a reduction. He pointed out that the road from Parur to Kuriapalli was in a bad state of repairs.

Mr. M. D. Daniel, B.A., Editor of "The Travancore Times" and Secretary to the South Travancore Christian Association of Nagercoil, (Southern Division), spoke on the necessity for guarding the frontier and thereby preventing dacoities which had become very frequent in South Travancore. He advocated the extension of Railway communication to South Travancore, the development of the Cape Comorin Harbour, the holding of an Agricultural and Industrial exhibition in connection with the Assembly, the appointment of a Special Officer for the more efficient working of the Agricultural Loans Regulation, (which, he said, was now a dead letter,) the improvement of the pay of the Police and the placing of honest and responsible Officers in charge of Police Stations, the abolition of the system of collecting tax in kind, the enhancement of the allotment for Maramut works in the Southern Division, the deepening and improving of rain-fed tanks and the separation of the Devaswom from the Revenue Department with a view to the better management of both departments.

Mr. Thamarappallil Kuruvilla Kochu Thommen, Jacobite Syrian Landholder and Merchant of Chengannur, (Quilon Division), supported the abolition of the payment of tax in kind. He urged the necessity for opening a road from Mavelikaray to Kolanchery, and for constructing bridges over the rivers which intersect the roads. He asked also for the establishment of a Hospital and a Munsiff's Court at Chengannoor, and for permission being granted to the ryots to cultivate areas within reserved forests, without causing injury to such forests.

Mr. Ponnayya Nadar, Landholder and Merchant of Eraniel, (Southern Division), advocated the establishment of English Schools and the opening of more roads in his taluk. He also spoke on the necessity for supplying good drinking water, as the water in the taluk was brackish. He suggested that greater attention should be paid to the salt pans and allams.

The Rev. Eerali Vareed Mathoo Kathanar, Jacobite Syrian Priest and Landholder of Parur, (Kottayam Division), said that the Parur Bund which was constructed at a cost of over a lakh of rupees was now out of repair and that something should be done to strengthen it and to provide for the draining of the extensive area enclosed by it. He asked for the construction of a Bridge at Palathumkal ferry. He also supported the abolition of taxation in kind.

Mr. P. M. Chakko, B. A. of Kottayam, asked that the Government might be pleased to separate the Devaswom from the Revenue Department with a view to the

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more efficient administration of these two Departments and also to throw open the latter Department to competent persons of all classes of His Highness' subjects.

Mr. C. I. Abraham, Member of the Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam, also spoke to the same effect.

Mr. Kochikunnel Itti Eipe Itti Avirah, Romo-Syrian Landholder of Muvattupuzha (Kottayam Division), asked for the abolition of payment of tax in kind, the supply of a better quality of salt, the restriction of further extension of the Forest Reserves, the allotment to each taluk for public works of a sum of money proportionate to the revenue collected from that taluk, the establishment of an English School at Muvattupuzha, of a Zillah Court at Kottayam, and the opening of railway communication between Alwaye and Trivandrum.

Mr. C. J. Curien of Kottayam supported the abolition of payment of tax in kind. He also asked for permission to reclaim the Vembanaud Lake for paddy cultivation. He thought that expert opinion had not as yet condemned such reclamation.

Mr. T. R. Atchuthan Pillai, Landholder of Alengad, (Kottayam Division), said that the public suffered much from the want of good timber and asked that, in disposing of local timber, preference should be given to the natives of the State. He said that according to the present rules, all good timber was taken away by foreign contractors, and only rejected and inferior timber was given for the use of the people of the country. He suggested that timber should be auctioned at every depot in small lots; in that case, he was quite sure the whole timber would be purchased locally and the people benefited thereby.

Mr. G. H. Davey of Messrs Darragh Smail & Co., Alleppey, said that it was a general complaint that timber was taken away by foreign contractors and to meet the requirements of the people the collections from the forests should be auctioned periodically. He further said that he had been asked by several people to draw attention to two of their grievances; one was in connection with the salt used in fish-curing. No special favorable rates were granted for salt used in fish curing. In Cochin and British India, they cured fish under Government supervision, and as only the actual cost was charged trade was very much increased. If that were done in Alleppey, he thought that very good results would follow. Another point that he wished to draw attention to, was that the backwater and canals were in many places so full of mud that boats got stranded and the consequence was that the cost of carriage was very excessive. If these canals were put into proper order the cost of carriage would be reduced by one-third. He further pointed out that Rules under the Leper Bill had not been framed yet.

Mr. Mazhavancheril Krishna Pillai, Landholder of Vaikam, (Kottayam Division), said that the road from Vaikam to Vadayar was very much neglected and was useless for cart traffic, that since the services of the watchman at the bund in the Muvattupuzha river had been dispensed with, the bund was out of repair and that every year there was a flood in consequence, and that the bridge over the Muvattupuzha river which was washed away several years ago, had not been replaced yet. He further pointed out the inconvenience caused to the Vaikam people by the local Munsiff's Court having been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Parur District Court and asked that the Court might be re-transferred to the jurisdiction of the Alleppey District Court. He also supported the previous speakers about the abolition of taxation in kind.

Mr. Vattamparambil Keshavan Valiathan, Landholder of Karthigapally, (Quilon Division), asked that better quality of salt might be supplied. He also spoke about the difficulty experienced by the people of the country in getting timber.

Mr. S. Sivarama Iyer, Landholder of Boothapandy, (Southern Division), spoke in favour of the abolition of payment of tax in kind. He also urged the necessity of setting apart lands for grazing purposes, as well as for supplying manure for paddy fields.

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Mr. Oosan Pillay Kulamytheen Pillay, Mahomedan Landholder of Eraniel, (Southern Division), spoke on the need for introducing uniform weights and measures, the undesirability of allowing other than Mahomedans to handle the Koran in the Public Courts, the necessity of a school for imparting instruction in Arabic to Mahomedan boys and the desirability of appointing an officer to superintend the management of Mosques.

Mr. Kasamuthu Chattanathan Karayalan, Landholder and Abkari Contractor of Shencotta, (Quilon Division), urged the necessity for widening and deepening the rain-fed tanks of Shencotta. He asked further for the construction of a choultry there.

Mr. H. M. Knight of the Central Travancore Planters' Association said:—"The Planters of Central Travancore, in the Kottayam Division, whom I represent, are, generally speaking, a very contented and loyal community. The falling off of prices to which you alluded in your Address, is not due to anything that can be remedied at this end, unless Travancore can be blamed for shipping a larger quantity than hitherto, adding thereby its quota to over-production. The overwhelming duty of 6 pence per pound now imposed upon tea in England, is undoubtedly the chief cause of the price falling. I don't think we can expect it to be remedied soon, but still, we rely on the support of Travancore, with all India, in the war that we are now waging for preferential duties in London, and, if we once get preference for British-grown teas, it will be salvation to the tea planters. Planters are much dependent upon good and serviceable roads, and I must say that those who are planters in Kottayam Division, have, at the present moment, a real substantial grievance in the deplorable condition of the trunk roads from Mundakayam to Kanjirapally, a distance of nine miles. It is almost impossible to walk upon them. You cannot ride unless you are fearless, and carts only get along the road by going off it. It interferes very seriously with the supplies that are necessary to estates being brought. We cannot get them there and we have to find them elsewhere. We cannot send our tea to Kottayam for shipment out of Travancore. We have to send our tea and other produce to the Eastern Coast to be shipped at the port of Tuticorin, a distance double that of the Western route. It is only fair to state that repairs have been commenced on a section of the road alluded to, but, as I was asked to call attention to the subject, I do so with a desire to impress on the Government the vital necessity for pushing on repairs absolutely needed on this road.

"The only other subject that planters of Peermade are exercised about, at the present moment, is that the privileges they have hitherto enjoyed for the grazing of their cattle under the Cattle Grazing Rules of the 27th November, 1897, the enjoyment of which has lately been threatened by the suggestion to sell grass land surrounding estates to outsiders, are in peril. It has been the custom to permit each estate to graze 570 head of cattle, and, if the Government sells the land adjoining estates to others, it is impossible to graze even one. We have no other grievance and I will conclude by thanking you, Sir, for asking us to come here to-day".

Mr. Vykathillathil Kymal Kerulan Kerulan, Landholder of Tiruvella, (Quilon Division) asked for the maintenance of the Veliathu Bund, which, he said, was necessary for the irrigation of a very large extent of paddy land. He pleaded also for the opening of a Sanskrit School at Tiruvella.

Mr. K. Appadura Iyer, B. A., B. L., High Court Vakil and Landholder of Nedumangad, (Trivandrum Division) called attention to the absence of good irrigation tanks in his taluk and the consequent scarcity of the water supply. He also protested against the registering of jungle lands adjoining paddy fields in the names of strangers. He said that such lands should be left either unregistered, or should be registered only in the names of the owners of the paddy lands adjoining, as the shrubs were necessary for green manure.

Mr. M. M. Varughese of the Kottayam Traders' Association complained that the salt sold in the Bankshalls was mixed with large quantities of sand and asked for redress in the matter.

Mr. Neelakanda Iyer, Landholder of Ambalapuzha, (Quilon Division) said that, as there was great difficulty in getting jungle stakes and twigs for puncha cultivation,

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the ryots were put to much inconvenience and expense. He therefore asked for a reduction of the tax on puhja lands.

Mr. J. J. Murphy of the Cardamom Hills said :—"It was very pleasing to learn on Saturday, that you will shortly visit the Cardamom Hills, and personally enquire into the ryots' grievances. With poor prices, small crops and no proper roads, they are working their gardens with great difficulty, and, last year, sustained a very heavy loss. The land tax is Rs. 6-4-0 per acre, and is equivalent to a tax of 1½ anna per pound on the average crop of 70 pounds. This was 5 per cent. of the selling price of the spice when the monopoly was abolished about eight years ago, but 20 per cent. of the present price. I have been asked to invite your attention to the hardship the ryots suffer under Rule 9 of the Cardamom Rules. These rules set out that the crop must not be removed from the hills, until the tax has been paid in full, and this necessitates the borrowing of money at very heavy interest. The Cardamom Hills Superintendent, Mr. Sealy, says that the rule will be strictly enforced this year, even in the case of the European planters who spend large sums in cultivating the gardens. The buildings alone are ample security for the assessment. I trust that the Superintendent may be permitted to exempt from this rule large owners who keep gardens in a proper state of cultivation. In conclusion, I beg to assure you on behalf of the cardamom growers, both native and European, that, when you visit our hills next month, you will have a most hearty welcome."

Mr. S. Lekshmi Narayana Iyer, Landholder of Kalkulam, (Southern Division) said that the tax on Devasom lands had been raised by ⅛ by the Settlement authorities and asked for redress in the matter.

Mr. Mahomed Ismael, Landholder of Kadakavoor (Trivandrum Division) asked for the establishment of a High School at Kadakavoor, the opening of night schools for the children of the poor, the imparting of instruction in Arabic to Mahomedan children, the opening of certain roads and the prohibition of the Koran from being handled by other than Mahomedans in the Public Courts.

Mr. Parayath Narayana Menon, Landholder of Kunnattunad, (Kottayam Division) urged the necessity for constructing irrigation works in his taluk.

Mr. Nagendra Pye Krishna Patter, Landholder and Merchant of Quilon, said that it was necessary to have a Chathram near the Railway Station at Quilon. He also pointed out the inconvenience caused by the refusal of certain Treasury Officers to receive the recently coined copper chuckram pieces.

Mr. Anakottil Sankunni Karthavoo, Landholder of Shertallay, (Kottayam Division) asked for the construction of roads and the opening of canals at Shertallay.

Mr. V. Krishna Iyer, Landholder of Todupuzha, (Kottayam Division) asked for the establishment of schools, and the opening of roads and canals in his Taluk.

Mr. Tharayil Thommi Chakko, Romo-Syrian Landholder of Ettumanur, (Kottayam Division) asked for the maintenance of a Bund at Kaipuzha.

Mr. E. Ramier of Shencottah (Quilon Division) called attention to some of the grievances of the Shencottah ryots in connection with the Forest Rules. He then thanked the Dewan for the patient and sympathetic hearing he had given to the numerous grievances represented by the members of the Assembly.

The Very Reverend Eipe Thoma Kathanar of Tiruvella, (Quilon Division) was the last speaker. He said that the Assembly which was only three days old would in time grow into a power for good in the land under the fostering care of His Highness the Maharajah and the Dewan. He requested that any shortcomings that might have been observed in the speakers might be kindly overlooked, as the meeting was the first of its kind. He asked that the further extension of Forest Reserves towards the west might be stopped; that the Devasom be separated from the Revenue Department with a view to the better administration of both the Departments; and that competent men, without distinction of caste or creed, be appointed to the Government service. He said that great care should be exercised in permitting future reclamations in the Vembanad and

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other lakes, as he feared that there was the danger of the lands higher up being flooded, if these lakes were drained, as there would then be no proper outlet for the flow of water from the rivers, and for the tides from the sea. He then thanked the Dewan for the patient hearing granted to the Members.

Mr. Mohamed Elias Hajee Ahmed Sait, Mahomedan Merchant of Trivandrum, subsequently handed in a paper containing the representations he had to make. He asked for the construction of a Chathram for all castes and creeds at Trivandrum, the metalling of the road from Kalipankulom to the Mahomedan Mosque, a larger number of beat constables being employed for night duty, the introduction of the water pipe system into the town, the extension of railway communication to Trivandrum, the establishment of a Medical Dispensary at Karamanay, the repair of the neglected tanks of Trivandrum, the putting up of urinals and latrines for the whole of the Town and the encouragement of education among the Mahomedans.

The Dewan said that the various representations made that morning would be duly considered and placed before His Highness, and that Government would endeavour to meet the wishes and requirements of the people as far as it was possible to do so.

Cheers were then called for His Highness the Maharajah and the Dewan, and the proceedings were brought to a close at 11 A. M.

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